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The Elba Clipper

Volume 125, Number 28 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, December 2, 2021 1 Section, 8 Pages plus 1 Adv Insert

Upon recommendation of Mayor Tom Maddox

Elba Council approves police chief appointment

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Elba City Council answered the question Monday night, Nov. 29, of who would be the new police chief for Elba when a vote of the council confirmed the appointment of Troy Staley for the job.

Mayor Tom Maddox had appointed a "Police Chief Committee" to process applications, and interview candidates. That committee included the mayor, city clerk Sally Bane, council member A R Williams, and Elba citizen Kelly Shehee.

A total of 18 applications were received for the police chief position, and the committee interviewed six candidates.

During Monday night's council meeting, Mayor Maddox recommended the appointment of Harold L. (Troy) Staley to be the next police chief in Elba. His recommendation, made in



Troy Staley was appointed Monday night by the city council to be Elba's next police chief

the form of a motion, was seconded by councilmember Williams. All voted in favor of the appointment.

Maddox said Staley is originally from the Gantt, Ala. area, and he graduated from Red Level High School. After high school, he went on to play football for St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., and he graduated there with a

Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics.

After college, Staley moved back to Alabama and began his career in law enforcement with the Opp Police Department. He later was Chief of Police for Castleberry before accepting a job with the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles.

Currently, Staley is working again with the Opp Police Department as a Patrol Sergeant.

The mayor said Staley already had begun the process of preparing to move to Elba. He added that Staley has four daughters, three of which will be attending Elba City Schools next school year.

"I have called several of the people I know that know [Staley], and several of the comments were he is very hardworking, level-headed, believes in work, and likes to work," Mayor Maddox said. "I guess everyone I talked with in Covington County said they hate to lose him. We are excited to have him as our police chief."

Staley said he hopes to quickly provide quality and professionalism to the Elba Police Department once he begins work. Also, he said it is important to him to bring a sense of security to the citizens.

"The buzz has gotten out that I possibly would be

Pedestrian killed in single vehicle accident just outside of Enterprise

Troopers with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) reported last week that a single-vehicle crash involving a pedestrian claimed the life of a 77-year-old Enterprise man.

According to State Troopers, the accident occurred at approximately 6:20 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, on Coffee County Road 708, approximately one mile south of the Enterprise city limits. Charles Hight Deaver was fatally injured when a 2016 Chevrolet Silverado, driven by Iverson Louis Kelley, age 21, also of Enterprise, left the roadway and struck Deaver.

Deaver was pronounced dead at the scene.

No further details have been released by ALEA as the Highway Patrol Division continues its investigation.

See CHIEF, Page 3

ALDOT announces resurfacing projects in Elba

The Alabama Department of Transportation [ALDOT] announced earlier this week that it would initiate a road resurfacing project in Elba. Work was scheduled to begin Nov. 29, weather permitting.

Three roads were slated for resurfacing in the ALDOT project. This project consists of:

- U.S. Highway 84 from Alabama Highway 203 to Alabama Highway 87;
- Alabama Highway 87 from U.S. Highway 84 to

- Alabama Highway 203 and South to Alabama Highway 203 North.

Lane closures and reduced speed limits are possible throughout the 2022.

This project is expected to be completed by Spring 2022.

The project is expected to delay plan accordingly, and be mindful of crew members and equipment.

Motorists should expect delays, plan accordingly, and be mindful of crew members and equipment.

Water and Electric employees with one-time premium pay as a Christmas gift.

The Elba Christmas Parade will be Monday evening, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m. The theme for this year's parade is "Cruising Into Christmas" with no fee to participate.

The parade is sponsored by the Elba Chamber of Commerce. For entries, contact the Chamber at (334)

897-3125 or email: elbachamber@troycable.net.

Pro Football Focus names Elba native Alex Wright C-USA Defensive Player of the Year



Alex Wright
(UAB team photo)

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. — Pro Football Focus (PFF) released its 2021 All-Conference USA Teams and honored University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) defensive end Alex Wright as the C-USA Defensive Player of the Year.

On Wright, PFF noted: "Wright earned a 91.3 PFF grade over the regular season, the second-highest in the FBS, and played soundly against the run and pass. The 6-foot-7, 270-pound edge defender finished the regular season as one of the seven FBS edge defenders who put up an 80.0-plus PFF grade in both run defense and as a pass-rusher. Wright generated a 19.9% pressure rate and 26.1% pass-rush win rate in 2021, top-five marks at the position."

The Elba, Ala., native had a monster season on the edge with 42 total tackles, 7.5 TFL, 7.0 sacks, 12 quarterback hurries, three pass breakups and two forced fumbles. He was named Conference USA Defensive Player of the Week on Oct. 11 for his performance against Florida Atlantic.

Wright led a unit that finished the regular season ranked No. 17 nationally in total defense (323.3) and No. 14 in rush defense (104.2). The UAB Blazers look to have a big performance in the bowl game to finish top 10 nationally in total defense for a fourth straight year.

Businesses set to be represented include: the Coffee County Extension Service, Coffee County Commission, CGI, National Security Group, First Choice Hospice, Rex Lumber, Alabama Department of Corrections, Enterprise Career Center, Midsouth Paving, Kelley Foods, Florida Department of Corrections, Dorsey Trailer, Dollar General, Elba Nursing and Rehab, Elba Christian Mission, Kimber Manufacturing, KW Plastics Recycling, KW Container, Ben E. Keith Foods, Wayne Farms, Pilgrim's, and Dairy Queen.

For more information, contact the Elba Chamber of Commerce at (334) 897-3125 or email: elbachamber@troycable.net



RESURFACING UNDERWAY...The Elba City Council approved a resolution Monday night, Nov. 29, for street resurfacing around the square, and that work immediately got underway Tuesday morning, Nov. 30th. The quick turnaround from project approval to work underway was possible because the contractor already was in Elba working on other resurfacing projects. Above, Court Avenue was blocked to traffic Tuesday morning as Wiregrass Construction crews work on that road and adjoining Simmons Street.

Elba City Council approves resurfacing project

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Elba City Council approved a resolution Monday night, Nov. 29, during its regular bi-monthly meeting for street resurfacing work around the square in downtown Elba.

Utilizing Rebuild Alabama Gas Tax funds for the project, the city approved a proposal from Wiregrass Construction Company in the amount of \$49,950 for the work. The project includes resurfacing of Simmons Street from Factory Avenue to Court Avenue; Court Avenue from Simmons Street to Davis Street; and Factory Avenue from Simmons Street to Davis Street.

Once all the resurfacing projects are completed, including a resurfacing project by the state department of transportation on Davis Street, the entire downtown square area will have new road resurfacing.

Mayor Maddox said officials with Wiregrass Construction said they felt the resurfacing of the project approved by the council at Monday night's meeting could be completed before Elba's Christmas Parade set for Monday night, Dec. 6th.

The mayor encouraged motorists to use caution when traveling in the areas of the city undergoing street resurfacing.



GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS...During the Elba City Council meeting Monday night, City Clerk Sally Bane said the city's street department employees would be busy this week decorating the city for Christmas. On Tuesday afternoon, several of the employees could be found on the square assembling the city's official Christmas tree.

Elba Council approves employee "Christmas gift" pay

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Elba City Council and Elba Water & Electric Board voted Monday night, Nov. 29, at their respective meetings to approve use of certain funds to provide

employees with one-time premium pay as a Christmas gift.

City clerk Sally Bane said the city had received funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds (SLFRF), and the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of the American Rescue Plan states that among other things the local government body could use SLFRF monies to address: public health/negative economic impact; premium pay; revenue loss, and investments in water, sewer, and broadband. Therefore, it was recommended by the mayor that an expenditure of a one-time premium pay of a net of \$50 be approved via resolution to all full-time and part-time employees as a "Christmas gift" to the employees.

Also, during the Elba City Council meeting, Mayor Maddox said the issue regarding a new permanent location for the Elba Chamber of Commerce office remained unresolved. He said officials were still awaiting some building appraisals, and he felt it would be best to wait on that information before any decisions were made.

Maddox said he had met with Elba Chamber director Sandy Bynum-Williams on several occasions, and all are agreement that they wanted to find an amiable solution to the matter.

The Elba Chamber of Commerce is a separate entity from the City of Elba;

See ELBA, Page 3

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

"The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings" – Eric Hoffer

"Why is Alabama's AG involved in a cakebaker's lawsuit in Colorado?" That was the headlines on an article we saw on <al.com> recently. It struck a chord because we have been trying to figure out why Attorney General Steve Marshall gets involved in so many out-of-state court cases. If it was a private individual, we should not even ponder such action, but the AG is doing it in his official position which means Alabama taxpayers are footing the bills. It might only be the time of an assistant AG researching the case, the typist keying up the volume of documents or the postage to transmit them, but it is still taxpayer money. Also there might be some issues in Alabama that warrant his (and his staff's) attention! If not ... send someone home!

Just when Americans were beginning to relax and accept that the worse was over with COVID, a new variant crops up in Southern Africa. First it was just plain COVID, then there was the Alpha variant, followed by Delta. Now we must worry about the spread of Omicron. The alarming thing is it is already spreading to other countries, even though just identified last week in South Africa. Right now, it is not even known if the vaccine shots many of us have taken will be a deterrent. Our reaction is to first – pray for all humanity; next double down on the safeguards we all learned about in the past year or so.

Tuesday morning we read that South Africa medical officials indicate this new version of COVID just might not be making folks as sick as the previous variants. That is not "excellent" news, but it is better than being a report of increased deaths.

Pig-In-A-Blanket rolls are being discontinued by Marzetti who now owns the Sister Schubert brand. This has raised a minor uproar from fans of the roll with a sausage already in it. Also on a personal note the complaints give us some moral support when family members continue to harass yours truly for accidentally buying those for a family Thanksgiving gathering being hosted at our home years ago. The family banner happened again last Thursday during our Thanksgiving meal but this time we could quickly point out the news reports of upset Pig-In-A-Blanket fans. HA!

Elba citizens can smile when seeing some of the streets finally getting the resurfacing work they badly needed following the ongoing upgrades to both the water and sewer systems. As much of the work has progressed to the point of restoring the streets, the paving contractor moved back in this week. An added tidbit is the City of Elba added in a bit of additional resurfacing around the downtown square. To get an idea of the cost of this type work, the resurfacing on three sides of the square cost a few nickels less than \$50,000! It was only that 'cheap' because the paving company's machinery was already in town!!!!

Be safe, wear your mask, social distance, wash your hands AND get the shot(s)!

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The Elba Clipper

USPS 171-080

is published every Thursday by The Elba Clipper,
417 W. Buford St., Elba, Alabama 36323
Publication Postage paid at Elba, Alabama 36323

Postmaster: Send Address Changes To:
The Elba Clipper, P.O. Box 677, Elba, AL 36323-0677

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Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$21 per year
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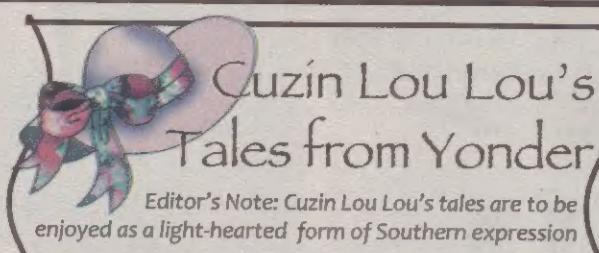
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Cuzin Lou Lou did some-
thing on Thanksgiving that
she very well may never do again...she cooked the dressing so suitable for
Sister that she complimented it more than once!

Thanksgiving is Lou Lou's favorite day of the year to cook. She gets up early that morning to prepare and place "Mr. Tom" the turkey in the oven. By the time the rest of the Yonder gang rouses from their beds, the turkey aroma fills the air.

Planning ahead, Lou Lou had made the cornbread for the dressing the day prior, so, it was ready to go when time came to mix the dressing. Everything came together beautifully.

There was the addition of a few more veggie sides, and the meal was ready!

Papa, Sister, and Lou Lou gathered around the table – Little Bean too – to enjoy the meal and give thanks for their many blessings.

In the spirit of the day, Little Bean got her own small plate of turkey and dressing to enjoy with the family. Believe you me...she enjoyed it greatly!

A few bites into the meal, and Sister told Lou Lou she believed that day's dressing was her best yet! The compliments continued as the leftovers were devoured one.

The good side of this was that it absolutely tickled Lou Lou to know she had created a dish of dressing that was in a word – fine!

The potential bad side is – the Yonder gang will expect that same production every time from now on. So, the pressure is on for Lou Lou in years to come.

Lou Lou won't rat on Sister and tell everyone

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Fine Arts Christmas showcase returns to ESCC campus

Enterprise State Community College's Fine Arts Student Art Exhibit and Christmas Concert is returning to the ESCC campus this year, just in time for the start of the holiday season.

The annual event highlights the visual and musical talents of ESCC fine arts students. This year, the community is invited to attend the event in person on Thursday, Dec. 2, to meet with student artists and watch student musical performances.

The event will start at 5:30 p.m. with the Student Art Exhibit, located in the gallery of Forrester Hall.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, between Monday, November 22, 2021, and Monday, November 29, 2021, conducted the following activity:

Monday, Nov. 22 – Reckless driver reported on Hwy 87 (9:15 a.m.); Fire reported at 595 Collier St (9:27 a.m.); Theft of property reported on Simmons St (5:37 p.m.); Reckless driver reported on Hwy 84 (9:19 p.m.). There were two traffic stops on this date resulting in one citation and one verbal warning issued.

Between the time spent with family, great food, and no worries of added pounds, it was a fantastic Thanksgiving for the Yonder gang. Only downside now is Little Bean expects turkey and dressing instead of her dog food when the family gathers around the table for meals.

Oh well, maybe she can make it until Christmas, and another treat might be coming for the spoiled little one!

Until next time...God Bless and Keep Smiling!

Tuesday, Nov. 23 – Burglary reported at 920 Lee Circle (7:50 a.m.); Animal complaint reported at 1415 Jones St (8:54 a.m.); Suspicious vehicle reported at 2345 Hickman Ave (10:18 a.m.); Theft of property reported at 2345 Hickman Ave (12:34 p.m.); Disorderly person reported at 566 Jackson St (4:30 p.m.); Criminal mischief reported at 1303 Neil Grantham Dr (4:39 p.m.); Reckless driver reported on Hickman Ave – contact made and a verbal warning issued (7:05 p.m.). There were four traffic stops on this date resulting in one arrest and three verbal warnings issued.

Wednesday, Nov. 24 – Animal complaint reported at 12087 Hwy 189 – w/ animal impound (1:45 p.m.); Theft of property reported on Brunson Circle (2:04 p.m.); Animal complaint reported at 11927 Hwy 189 (3:23 p.m.). There was one traffic stop on this date resulting in a written warning issued.

Thursday, Nov. 25 – Domestic complaint reported at 595 Collier St (3:56 p.m.); Noise complaint reported at 2272

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Local Area Happenings

The Town of New Brockton Christmas Parade will be Saturday, Dec. 4, at 11 a.m. Line-up begins at 10 a.m. in front of the Coffee County Farm Center.

WeGonEat presents a Christmas Dinner Monday evening, Dec. 6, following the Elba Christmas Parade at the Elba Theatre on the square in Elba. There will be homemade spaghetti, homemade hot chocolate, and homemade desserts created by Chef Adeana Gray. Cost is \$5 for the meal.

The Coffee County Conservation District will hold its monthly board meeting Monday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m., at 701 N. Main Street, Enterprise, Ala. The meeting area is limited to the number of people that can be in the room, so if planning to attend, call 334-894-5581 x3.

TAI CHI for Arthritis and Fall Prevention will be held at the Elba Senior Citizens Center on Friday, Dec. 10, beginning at 10 a.m. This in-person session is made possible by SARCOA. There also will be a session at the Enterprise Senior Citizens Center on Dec. 10th at 12 noon.



RWCC VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR... Kimmie Stafford was named the Sue Cobb Republican Women of Coffee County (RWCC) Volunteer of the Year at the RWCC November 17 meeting. The award was established in 2002 in honor of Sue Cobb, who is a former RWCC President and recipient of the Alabama Federation of Republican Women (AFRW) Martha Foy award for most outstanding Republican woman. For the past two years, Stafford volunteered to serve double duty as both the RWCC Membership Vice-President and Treasurer. She served as Treasurer from 2018-2020, and as the Recording Secretary from 2016-2017, being responsible for publishing the RWCC newsletter. In 2017, RWCC won the AFRW award for best newsletter. Always willing to serve, Stafford has volunteered at Coffee County Republican Headquarters; RWCC festival booths and bake sales; campaigning for local candidates; and traveling to Florida as part of the Mighty Alabama Strike Force to knock on doors for the Republican Presidential candidate in 2016 and 2020. She has volunteered to continue her service to RWCC by serving as the Caring for America Committee Woman during the 2022-2023 term. For more information about the Republican Women of Coffee County, contact RWCC President Jan White at 334-494-3763. Pictured are left, RWCC 2020 Volunteer of the Year, Carol Boylston, and Kimmie Stafford.



RWCC ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023... The Republican Women of Coffee County (RWCC) elected officers for the 2022-2023 term at the November 17 meeting held at the Enterprise Country Club. Britney Garner, President of the Alabama Federation of Republican Women, presided over the induction ceremony. Garner also was the guest speaker and spoke about the exciting plans AFRW has for the coming year. Pictured left to right are: Britney Garner; Jan White, incoming President; Carol Boylston, 1st VP, Programs; Shannon Smith, 2nd VP, Hospitality; Sue Neuwien, 3rd VP, Campaigns; Jane Wardrobe, 4th VP, Membership; Lisa Bebee, Recording Secretary; Leslie Olson, Corresponding Secretary; and Juleigh Ayer, Treasurer. The next RWCC meeting will be held January 19, 11 a.m., at the Enterprise Country Club. For more information, contact Jan White at 334-494-3763.

CHIEF

Con't from Page ONE

appointed here [as police chief], and I have a lot of people interested in the opportunity to come to Elba to work," Staley said to the council.

He said he would like to work out a two-week notice with the Opp Police Department as professional courtesy but was looking forward to coming to Elba

as police chief. "I appreciate the opportunity," he said.

Also, during the council meeting, the mayor thanked Officer Shayne Arnett for serving as interim chief during this time. Arnett will continue in that capacity until Staley comes on board as Chief in a couple of weeks.

however, the city and chamber have a service contract for the Chamber to promote business for Elba. In that contract is a clause for the city to provide a building location for the Elba Chamber office.

The former Elba Chamber of Commerce office was destroyed earlier this year by fire, and the office has been temporarily located in a room at Moseley Studios until a new permanent location can be found and approved.

The next Elba City Council meeting is set for Monday evening, Dec. 13, at 5:30 p.m. Due to the Christmas holidays, the council will conduct both

its required monthly meetings that night. The first meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. After adjourning that meeting, the council will immediately go into a second session for the second bi-monthly meeting for December.

Share Your Views... Write a Letter to the Editor!!

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND SECTION 8

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Obituaries

Death notices updated regularly on our website at <www.elba-clipper.com>

BOBBY JOE FLOWERS

Mr. Bobby Joe Flowers, age 76, of the Wilkinstown Community died Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021, at Flowers Hospital in Dothan, Ala.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021, at Skeen Funeral Home Chapel in Troy, Ala., with Rev. Rick Hayes officiating. Burial followed in the Hebron Baptist Church Cemetery with Skeen Funeral Home of Troy directing.

He was born January 4, 1945, in Coffee County, Ala., to the late Curtis and Viola Flowers. He and his wife, Merlene Baker Flowers, were joined in matrimony April 18, 1965, and were married for 55 years. He worked as a machinist at Dorsey Trailers in Elba for 35 years.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Pete Flowers, and a sister, Faye Payne.

Survivors include his wife: Merlene Flowers; children: Lesia Grice (Jimmy), Bobby Joe Flowers II, Michael Flowers (April), and Stephen Flowers (Christina); grandchildren: Christopher DuBose (Danielle), Cody DuBose (Lane), Tiffany Henderson (Cameron), Myron Davis (Angel), Chelsia Kilpatrick (John), Perry Davis (Chelsea), Erin Flowers, Lindsay Flowers, Brandon Flowers, Dakota Flowers,

Sharon Flowers, (Jeremy, and Jesse Flowers); nine great-grandchildren; brother, Jesse Flowers (Kathy); sister-in-law: Linda Sheets (James); brothers-in-law: Murry Baker (Christine) and Billy Jo Payne; many nieces, nephews, family, and nephews.

JERRY DEAN HUTTO Mr. Jerry Dean Hutto, age 61, a resident of Enterprise, Ala., died Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021, due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Dothan, Ala.

A Funeral Mass was held Friday, Nov. 26, 2021, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church with Father Zachary Greenwell officiating. Burial followed in Meadowlawn Cemetery under the direction of Hayes Funeral Home.

Survivors include a son: Chance Hutto, Lewisville, Texas; daughter: Jada Hutto, Enterprise; the mother of his children: Kathy Hutto, Enterprise; his mother: Florine McKinney, and stepfather: Johnny McKinney, New Brockton, Ala.; a brother: Wesley (Courtney) McKinney, Geneva, Ala.; stepbrother: Johnathan McKinney, Andalusia, Ala.; nieces: Madison (Grant) Griffin, Auburn, Ala., and Samantha Mathews, Enterprise; and a nephew: Mathew McKinney, Geneva.

Survivors include his wife: Christina Marie McCown, Elba; daughter: Tia (Justin) Tharp, Clanton, Ala.; sons: Alex (Kristen) McCown, and Logan Scott (Jaleigh) McCown, both of Elba; father: Jacob Wayne (Peggy) Parrish, Elba; mother: Betty Parrish, Elba; brothers: Billy Wayne (Patty) Parrish, Jack, Ala., Joshua (Hannah) Parrish, Andalusia, Ala.; sisters: Candy (Richard) Prestage, Hamilton, Ala., Sue (Jesse) Mitchell,

NOTICE:
Youth Basketball Registration for Boys and Girls is underway for the Elba Parks and Recreation Department. Call (334) 897-6833 for more details!

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Ideas for Creating a Display at a Loved One's Grave Site

One of the most popular ways to honor a deceased loved one is to visit their grave site, perhaps adorning it with a floral arrangement as you leave. Flowers are always a great way to show your respects at a loved one's final resting place, but it's not the only option available to you. There are a number of creative ways to decorate a grave site, bringing it some natural beauty and demonstrating that your loved one remains close to your heart.

It's not uncommon to decorate grave sites with American flags—particularly if your loved one was a veteran. And, for those whose loved ones were born in other countries, you may wish to decorate their grave site with the colors of their motherland.

Seasonal displays are also a good option. For example, when fall weather rolls in, you might decorate your loved one's grave site with some pumpkins. For Valentine's Day, consider a display of roses or paper hearts. As Christmas nears, holly, bells, and wreaths can all be employed.

Visiting the gravesite of a child can be especially painful, but there are some age-appropriate ways to show your respects—perhaps by leaving stuffed animals or toys at the grave site.

You might also consider special lighting. You can order some elegant, solar lights that will illuminate your loved one's headstone—even in the nighttime hours.

This is an area where a little creativity can go a long way, and there are very few limits to what you can do to show your respects. If you do have any questions about what's appropriate, don't hesitate to contact either the cemetery owner or your funeral director.

If you would like a free funeral decisions guide, please email me at hayesfh@hayesfuneralhome.net

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CHURCH & AREA NEWS

Reflections

by Michael J. Brooks, Pastor

When Trouble Comes

I was at the dermatologist's office for my semi-annual cancer screening, wearing the gown that's open at the back. My phone buzzed, "Please call me," my wife texted in all caps. I called to find "someone" had left the lights on overnight in her car and the battery was dead. In the midst of helping her decide what to do, the doc and her entourage came into the exam room. I explained apologetically that I needed just a minute.

"That's fine," she said. "Just stand still and I'll start on your back."

So while I completed the call, she began to probe my hinder parts with three female assistants looking on. I suppose it was no time for modesty as I dealt with the crisis of the dead battery and the potential crisis of precancerous spots!

The doctor wacked off two suspicious lesions that, fortunately, were benign, and a kindly neighbor pulled his truck into our driveway and jump started the car. So, we survived the crisis of the moment.

I thought how often trouble comes when we're busy doing other things--trouble much worse than I experienced.

This happened in our church over the past months. A church member had a government agency show up at his business and declare he had to spend thousands of dollars for site improvements he'd not planned for. Another member went for a routine blood test. His doctor saw something he didn't like and sent him to a specialist. Another person got a call that her mom in another state had fallen and needed brain surgery. A church staff member learned that a teen-ager in a former church was in an accident and died a few days later.

I'm sure every community of faith can recount seasons of difficulty.

In the midst of trouble we often feel no one cares about us. We may even feel abandoned by God. Phillip Yancey wrote, "Where Is God When It Hurts?"—a sentiment commonly expressed.

"Why is God letting this happen to me?" we think, and "What's this all about? I'm trying to be the best person I can."

I frequently share Paul's word in 2 Corinthians 1:4 at funeral services where families often feel this abandonment. Paul said in trouble we receive the "comfort of God." We have the assurance that he cares for us whether we realize it at that moment or not.

Paul went on to say that we use the same comfort to comfort others in their time of need. Thus every experience of trouble is a stewardship. God gives us strength sufficient, and later we can confidently and lovingly share our testimony of endurance to encourage others in their trials.

Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. The church's website is siluriabaptist.com.

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IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
Rocky Pearce, Pastor
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...3:00 p.m.

ABUNDANT LIFE
CHURCH SAMSON, Ala.
Richard Thorn Sr., Pastor
Morn. Worship...10:30 a.m.
Wed. Night Service:7:00 p.m.

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Harry Driggers, Pastor
Sunday School...10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship...6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service:7:00 p.m.

BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Sam Self, Pastor
Sunday School...9:30 a.m.
Morn. Worship...10:30 a.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet...6:30 p.m.

BETHHEL AME CHURCH
Deborah A. Butler, Pastor
Sunday School...10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:30 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study...6:00 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Sundays School...10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:30 a.m.
Wed. Bible Class...6:30 p.m.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
Greg Cotter, Pastor
Sunday School...9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...10:00 a.m.
Disciple Train...5:30 p.m.
Even. Worship...6:30 p.m.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School...10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship...6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service:6:30 p.m.

BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH
Ronald Davis, Pastor
Sunday School...10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship...6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service:6:30 p.m.

CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST CHURCH
Reuben Smith, Pastor
Church Services...9:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays
Sunday School...9:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
Sunday School...10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Steve Reneau, Pastor
Sunday School...9:00 a.m.
Even. Services...6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study...6:00 p.m.

ELBA ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Lovel Martin, Pastor
Sunday School...9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...6:30 p.m.
Wed. Even. Meeting:7:00 p.m.

HEBRON BAPT. CHURCH
Mark Cooper, Pastor
Sunday School...10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...6:30 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet...7:00 p.m.

HAW HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Shirlie Ellis, Pastor
Sunday School...9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet...7:00 p.m.

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School...10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...6:30 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service:6:30 p.m.

NEW HOPE BAPT. CHURCH
Lanny Shepard, Pastor
Sunday School...9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...10:00 a.m.
Even. Service...6:30 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service:6:30 p.m.

NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Dwight Johnson, Pastor
Sunday School...9:30 a.m.
Morn. Worship...10:30 a.m.
Even. Service...5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service...6:30 p.m.

NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Jeremie Turner, Sr. Pastor
Sunday School...9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Wed. Service...6:00 p.m.
1st & 3rd Sundays

HARRIS TEMPLE COGIC CHURCH
W. K. Ellison, Pastor
Sunday School...9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Wed. Service...6:00 p.m.

MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
J. R. Parks, Pastor
Sunday School...9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet...6:30 p.m.

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Brad Sasser, Pastor
Sunday School...9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...10:00 a.m.
Even. Service...6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet...6:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Olan Strickland, Pastor
Sunday School...10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting:7:00 p.m.

NEW HOPE BAPT. CHURCH
Lanny Shepard, Pastor
Sunday School...9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...10:00 a.m.
Even. Service...6:30 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service:6:30 p.m.

NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Mark Cooper, Pastor
Sunday School...9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...6:30 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service:6:30 p.m.

OLAN STRICKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
Olan Strickland, Pastor
Sunday School...10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service:6:30 p.m.

SHADY GROVE AME CHURCH
James Starks Jr., Pastor
Sunday School...9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Praise Service Mon 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service:6:00 p.m.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School...9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...4:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet...6:30 p.m.

WOOTEN CHAPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Mike Medley, Pastor
Sunday School...10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service...7:00 p.m.

WOODLAND GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Donnie Marler, Pastor
Sunday School...10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...5:30 p.m.
Wed. Service...7:00 p.m.

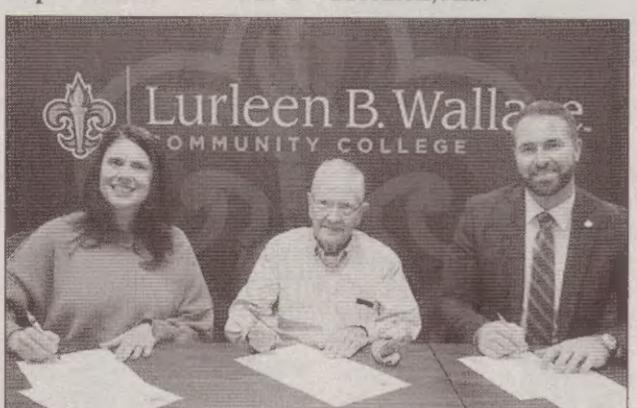
ZION CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Cary Maulden, Pastor
Sunday School...9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.
Even. Service...6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service:6:30 p.m.

Mount Zion Baptist Church plans Children's Activity Day for Dec. 11 featuring The Christmas Story

The Christmas Story will be the theme of a Children's Activity Day at Mount Zion Baptist Church on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The event will include a host of activities for children of all ages. This includes food, games, crafts, songs, skits and much more – all designed to explore The Christmas Story.

Parents are asked to RSVP with child's name and age to: mountzion-baptistchurch.mixons.com



An official signing was held at LBW Community College to announce the endowment of the Merrill Family Memorial Fund. The Merrill Family Memorial Fund was established in 1986 with the original contribution from Clara Thagard in memory of her father Eli Reid Merrill. Annual contributions were made until 1991. One of Clara's brothers was Reid Merrill, the father of Tobe, Scotty, Lee and William. Scotty and Lulu were friends of Dr. Bill and Betty Albritton who endowed the fund in 2021 in memory of Scotty, Clara, and her daughter Lynne Thagard Zorn, and to honor Scotty's wife Louise Richardson, nee Waller (Lulu), and his brother Augustus Lee Merrill. The Merrill Family Memorial Fund is at this moment established to promote the education of a deserving student attending Lurleen B. Wallace Community College. Pictured, seated left, are LBW Foundation board member Shannon Jackson; Dr. Bill Albritton; LBW President Dr. Brock Kelley.

New Hope Senior Center taking apps for new participants

New Hope Senior Citizens Center is looking for a "Few Good Men and Women" to become a part of the senior center family! The center is taking applications for new participants.

For more information, contact center director Conzuella Banks at (334) 735-5433.

Call Today!!

NOTICE:
Anyone age 60 or over needing a meal, or for questions about the Elba Senior Center or SARCOA, call the center at (334) 897-3019.

THE ELBA CLIPPER • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

Round and About

With Eria's Daughter

897-3611

Scripture: Oppressed by the Wicked but rejoicing in the Lord [Psalm 64: 1-10]

Thinking of You! Praying for You.

All School Children, Mary Sue Dawson, Alice Musgrove, Georgia Nelson, Christina Woods, Bill S. Kelley, Shelia Magwood, Joe Rudolph, Helen Thigpen, Carmen Tate, Leroy Thomas Jr.

Mount Zion Baptist Church is located at Mixon's Crossroads, 774 County Road 223, New Brockton, Ala.

Sunday, Dec. 12, will be a follow up presentation of Children's Program Performance for friends and family. This event will be from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The program will be followed by a covered dish lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

The Christmas Story will be the theme of a Children's Activity Day at Mount Zion Baptist Church on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The event will include a host of activities for children of all ages. This includes food, games, crafts, songs, skits and much more – all designed to explore The Christmas Story.

Parents are asked to RSVP with child's name and age to: mountzion-baptistchurch.mixons.com

Sunday School...10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship...11:00 a.m.

Even. Service...5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Service...6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer Service...6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study...6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Service...6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Service...6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer Service...6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Service...6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Service...6:30 p.m.

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The Elba Clipper

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Coffee County Highway Department
Laborer

Job Description: Provide general labor and support for road maintenance and repair and other various duties. No Experience Required. Qualifications: Valid Driver's License, must be physically fit to handle various flag-man tasks and other duties. Requires standing for long periods. Fringe Benefits: Paid vacation, sick leave, health insurance, holidays, and State retirement. Salary Range: Starting Salary is \$10.50 per hour. Closing Date: Until position is filled

Please apply at www.coffeecounty.us.
Coffee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Coffee County Board of Education is seeking applications for the following certificated and classified positions:

Certified: Elementary teacher @ Zion Chapel School. All persons applying for this position must possess a valid Alabama Teacher's Certificate or be eligible to receive Alabama certification, with relevant certification and expertise in the area of specialization.

Classified: Secretary/Bookkeeper@ New Brockton Elementary School. Qualifications to include, high school diploma or equivalent; post-secondary training preferred. Experience in basic bookkeeping/accounting; experience with McAleer Accounting System preferred. Employment contingent on applicant receiving a clear background check and ability to be bonded.

Applications accepted through December 5, 2021 or until the positions are filled.

To apply for these positions, you must complete an online application. To access additional information regarding these vacancies and to access the on-line application please visit:

www.aladsde.edu/TeachinAlabama or www.coffeeccountyschools.org

EOE-The Coffee County Board of Education is an E-Verify Employer

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Posted on the websites: www.elba-clipper.com and www.alabamapublicnotices.com at no extra charge

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11/11-4ptd.

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NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY ADMINISTRATOR

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to **FAYOMIA A. WISE**, Administrator, on the 9th day of November, 2021, by the Honorable Jodee R. Thompson, Judge of Probate Court of Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

/s/ Fayomia A. Wise
Fayomia A. Wise
Administrator

11/18,25&12/2-pd.

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by **LARRY JOHNSON**, A SINGLE MAN, to **AMERIS BANK** on FEBRUARY 19, 2016, said mortgage being recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of COFFEE County, Alabama, at OFF RECORD BOOK 730, PAGE 653, the undersigned **AMERIS BANK**, as mortgagee (or transferee), under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, at the entrance of the Courthouse of COFFEE County, at ENTERPRISE, Alabama, on JANUARY 5, 2022, between the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate situated in COFFEE County, Alabama, to wit:

451 LS CAPPED IRON PIN; **THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY MARGIN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 16 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 158.93 FEET TO A CA 451 LS CAPPED IRON PIN**; **THENCE ALONG SAID MARGIN SOUTH 3 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 158.93 FEET TO A CA 451 LS CAPPED IRON PIN**; **THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY MARGIN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 233.16 FEET TO A CA 451 LS CAPPED IRON PIN**; **THENCE ALONG SAID MARGIN SOUTH 3 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 158.93 FEET TO A CA 451 LS CAPPED IRON PIN**; **THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY MARGIN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 233.16 FEET TO A CA 451 LS CAPPED IRON PIN**; **THENCE ALONG SAID MARGIN SOUTH 3 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 158.93 FEET TO A CA 451 LS CAPPED IRON PIN**; **THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY MARGIN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 233.16 FEET TO A CA 451 LS CAPPED IRON PIN**; **THENCE ALONG SAID MARGIN SOUTH 3 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 158.93 FEET TO A CA 451 LS CAPPED IRON PIN**; 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SPORTS NEWS

Views From

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

We spent the Thanksgiving holidays with our grandson Lawson at Disneyworld and even though I had to eat a hot dog for my Thanksgiving meal and then got a little woozy trying to keep up with him on a ride, it was a fun couple of days for us all. There were no attractions Lawson was reluctant to get on and the long lines didn't bother him at all as his Mom, Nanny, Aunt Mel Mel and Uncle Gabe were going non-stop from the time the parks opened until they closed. It was a fun family vacation and one none of us will soon forget.

For what it is worth....

*** *The high school basketball season tipped off* this week for the Elba Tigers and Lady Tigers and all their fans are excited about the start of a new season. The Tigers will be led by new head coach Kelsey Prestwood, the former head coach at Zion Chapel and Ariton, and everyone in the program has their fingers crossed that the Tigers will put two years of losing behind them and be a team to beat in the 2A ranks, once again. The Lady Tigers suffered a rare losing season a year ago under Coach Shaun Hammonds and also lost three senior starters, but return a couple of very talented players and some exciting youngsters and could just be the surprise team in the region. Elba fans are hungry for a return to winning in the court and this just might be the year.

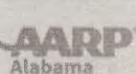
*** *The basketball season is still very young*, but the Zion Chapel Rebels have already been in the headlines as the Rebels have rolled to three big wins over Samson, Kinston and Florala. The Rebels began to turn their program around a few years back and appear to be ready to make a run at an area crown. My guesses for the rest of the teams in the area are that Kinston will be a solid 1A squad and will be a favorite for an area title, New Brockton will be much improved and will pull some upsets and Brantley will bounce back and be a force in its area. Over on the girls side of the court, Kinston should be a solid team and grab its share of wins, while Brantley should be better after a rare losing season, and both New Brockton and Zion Chapel should also get better as the season rolls along.

*** *The Brantley Bulldogs and Sweet Water Bulldogs* came into last week's semifinal match-up about as evenly matched as two teams could be and it showed in a game in which the teams were almost identical in every stat but one—the final score. The green-clad Bulldogs from Crenshaw County proved once again they were as good as any team in the state and were just a couple of plays away from making a trip to the state finals, but for the second straight season saw their season end one win away from the big prize. The semifinal loss will sting for a long time, but the Bulldogs have a lot to be proud of and are no doubt the first team state football fans think of when the subject of 1A football is discussed.

*** *The Alabama-Auburn football game* was played while we were on the way back from our family vacation and all I could do was try and keep up with the game on my phone, but I am sure fans from all across the state were as surprised as I was when the Crimson Tide was shutout for three quarters by the feisty Tigers. I am Alabama fan and am glad they found a way to win, but it was just another close game that could have gone either way and somehow the Tide once again escaped with a win. As for Auburn, the Tiger fans need to be proud of the effort of their team and while I know they are disappointed, I believe better days are ahead on the plains.

*** *Ye Ole Polish Prognosticator* looked a little tired when he dropped by over the weekend and admitted he was glad the long high school football season was finally drawing to a close. The local guesspert hit on 4 of his 6 playoff picks last week and left this week's fearless forecast. In this final week here are his picks.... (7A) Thompson 24 Central Phenix City 21, (6A) Clay-Chalkville 45 Hueytown 42, (5A) Pike Road 40 Pleasant Grove 38, (4A) Vigor 22 Oneonta 21, (3A) Piedmont 35 Montgomery Academy 14, (2A) Clarke County 21 Cleveland 7, (1A) Sweet Water 28 Wedley 21.

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In home opener

Tigers to host New Brockton Friday night



KELSEY PRESTWOOD

The Elba Tigers will tip off their basketball season this week and on Friday night will give the home fans a preview of things to come when they host the New Brockton Gamecocks in an early-season cross county match-up.

New Tiger head coach Kelsey Prestwood has been hard at work with his team for two weeks and feels the team has a chance to make strides after two disappointing seasons.

"We have only had seven practices," said Coach Prestwood, "and had to start at the beginning with simple fundamentals, but have made progress and I guess it is time to hit the court and find out where we are and what we need to work on. We have worked on basic offensive sets against man and zone defenses, worked on basic defensive patterns and are going to try and be a competitive team each and every time we hit the court."

"On offense we need to take the ball to the goal and use our quickness," added

Prestwood. "We do have some quickness and have guys that should be able to take their man to the goal. We may not be a team that shoots well from outside, but have a pretty good mix of size and quickness and should be successful if we play together as a team and aren't selfish. We have three players that are around 6-2 or 6-3 and can get on the boards, and they will have to play a big role on offense if we are going to score points."

"Over on defense we will mix it up, but will have to get after people

and use our quickness to cause turnovers," stated Prestwood. "We will play a lot of match-up zone and will press at times, as well as trap. Our lack of depth with only eight varsity players will obviously affect what we are able to do on both ends of the court, and we will have to avoid picking up foolish fouls. We will be aggressive on both ends, and our quickness will be our greatest asset."

"This year's team has two players back that saw a lot of minutes last season in Kimdarius Hill and Alvin Henderson," added Coach Prestwood, "but outside of that we will not have a lot of experience. If we have a strength it will be our team speed and quickness, with all five guys on the court being able to take it to the goal. Our goal is to be disciplined, be sound on fundamentals and work hard to improve every time we hit the floor. We will need to take high percentage shots, get in position to rebound and be sound in everything we do."

"Early in the season we will take it one game at a time and work hard to be a better team every time we hit the floor," said Prestwood. "I have made it clear that my expectations are to win every game we play, and when the players buy in and believe that we will be able to turn things around and be a solid team."

Hammonds excited to tip off new season

The Elba Lady Tigers struggled through a rare losing season a year ago and have only six varsity players back on this year's roster. However, veteran Lady Tigers head coach Shaun Hammonds is excited to tip off the season this week and as always expects his team to be competitive each and every night.

"We are going to be a young team this season with only one senior," said Hammonds, "in is fourth year the helm of the Elba girls, "but we have three players back that got a lot of minutes last year in Nina Williams, Tajah Purvis and Kendra Juarez, and feel like we have already laid the foundation for a successful program."

"Things have been going good in practice, especially since we pulled up six players off the JV squad," added Hammonds. "The younger girls may take a little while to find a role, but they will be role players and as the season progresses should become valuable parts of the team. We will open the puzzle in December, put some pieces together every day at practice and as the season moves on, and hopefully by January will have all the pieces in place to shape a winning team."

"We are going to take things step by step and not throw a lot at the team all at once," said Hammonds. "We have already established a winning

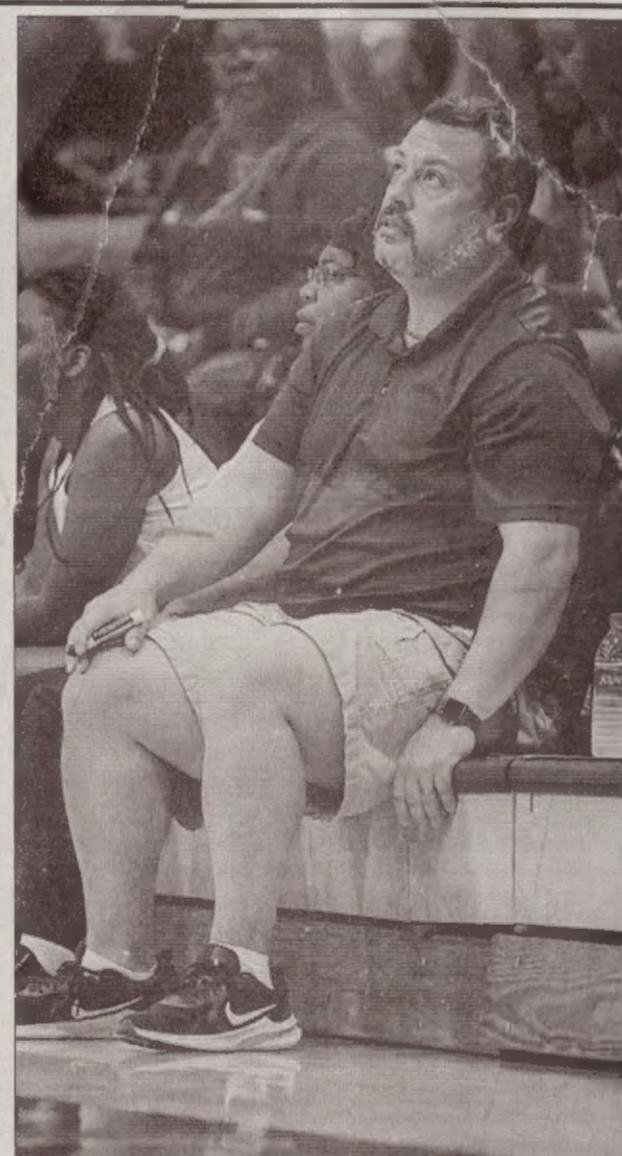
program and a winning attitude in our program and will just continue what we did during the building process. On offense we will have to fill some big shoes left empty from last season, but I am confident we have the girls to step up and do the job. We will always look to get the ball up and down the court, and will play fast, but smart basketball. On defense we will mix it up to give us the best chance to win against the team we are playing, but will always look to press and get after the basketball."

"Hey, here we go again," added Hammonds. "Every year is a new group with new talents and new challenges, and that will be the case again. We only have one girl on the team that made the trip to Birmingham two years ago. So, this team will have to write its own history. This bunch has really good chemistry, supports each other and is anxious to get started. The schedule may be a little tough early on, but I am excited to start another season and enjoy working with the girls every day and watch them grow individually and as a part of a team. This is the fun part for me."

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Kinston at Red Level

Friday, Dec. 3

New Brockton at Elba
McKenzie at Zion Chapel

Monday, Dec. 6

Opp at Brantley

Tuesday, Dec. 7

Zion Chapel at New Brockton
Goshen at Brantley

Thursday, Dec. 9

Brantley Tournament:
(Elba Boys and Girls)

(Brantley Boys and Girls)

Zion Chapel at Houston Academy

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SPORTS NEWS

Brantley ousted in 21-18 semifinal loss to Sweet Water

From combined reports
Photos by BC Sports Photography

The top-ranked and undefeated Brantley Bulldogs and second-ranked and undefeated Sweet Water Bulldogs clashed Friday night in the semifinals of the Class 1A state football playoffs at David Lowery Stadium, and after four quarters of action in a game that resembled a heavyweight bout it was the Bulldogs from Marengo County that had punched their tickets to the state finals with a 21-18 win over the green-clad Bulldogs from Brantley High School.

Sweet Water grabbed a 7-0 lead with 5:44 remaining in the first quarter on a 5-yard touchdown run by Walker Thompson and an extra-point by Alan Cole, but Brantley bounced back and cut the deficit to 7-6 with 51-seconds left in the quarter on 13-yard scoring run by Tucker Kilcrease.

Sweet Water stretched its lead to 14-6 with 3:05 remaining in the second quarter on a 6-yard touchdown toss from Thompson to Lashon Young and a Cole extra-point. However, Brantley again answered the challenge and with only 8-seconds left in the half again cut into the deficit when Robert Shine bulled over the goal line from two yards out. A two-point conversion try failed, but at the half the Bulldogs from Crenshaw County had pulled within 14-12.

Brantley took its only lead of the night with 3:40 left in the third quarter on a 40-yard pass from Jayden Parks to Morrell Edwards as the hometown Bulldogs moved on top 18-14. However, a two-point attempt was again unsuccessful as the lead remained at four points.

Sweet Water moved back on top 21-18 with 10:30 left in the fourth quarter on a 10-yard pass from Walker Thompson to Trace Luker, and Cole's third extra-point of the game, and this time Brantley failed to answer the score as Sweet Water headed home with the hard fought 21-18 playoff win.

Kedrick Brown rushed for 71 yards on 14 carries and Tucker Kilcrease added 49 yards rushing on 8 carries to lead Brantley on the ground, while Morrell Edwards had one catch for 40 yards. In the game, the Bulldogs were successful on only 3 of 12 third down conversions and 2 of 6 fourth down conversions.

Jaland Lewis-Horton rushed for 99 yards on 23 carries and Christian Dunning added 71 yards on the ground on 14 carries, while Walker Thompson rushed for one touchdown and passed for two scores to lead Sweet Water. Sweet Water converted on 7 of 16 third down tries and converted both fourth down attempts.

Both teams compiled 218 yards in total offense in the 1A battle.

State football finals are underway this week

The AHSAA semifinals produced five high schools that have advanced to the AHSAA Super 7 State Football Championships for the first time.

The newcomers – Class 1A Wedley, Class 2A Clarke County and Cleveland, Class 5A Pike Road and Class 6A Hueytown – all posted semifinal victories Friday night.

The 2021 Super 7 got underway Wednesday at 3 p.m., with the inaugural Girls' Flag Football Tournament championship when Hewitt-Trussville (10-0) met Smith Station (10-2) in the finals. The Class 7A Super 7 Championship Game kicked off the boys' action at 7 p.m., with two-time defending state champion Thompson (12-1) facing unbeaten Central-Phenix City (13-0) at 7 p.m. The Warriors, playing in their fourth straight 7A championship game, is the only defending champion to reach this year's finals.

Classes 1A, 3A and 5A Super 7 championships will be played Thursday, and Class 2A, 4A and 6A close out the 56th AHSAA state football playoffs on Friday. All eight games will be televised live by the AHSAA TV Network and live-streamed over the NFHS Network. The AHSAA Radio Network will also broadcast all the games over its statewide network or radio affiliates as well as over the internet.

On Wednesday, Piedmont (12-2) faces Montgomery Academy's Robert Johnson (1) capturing the other four. Johnson's state title came at a non-member school.

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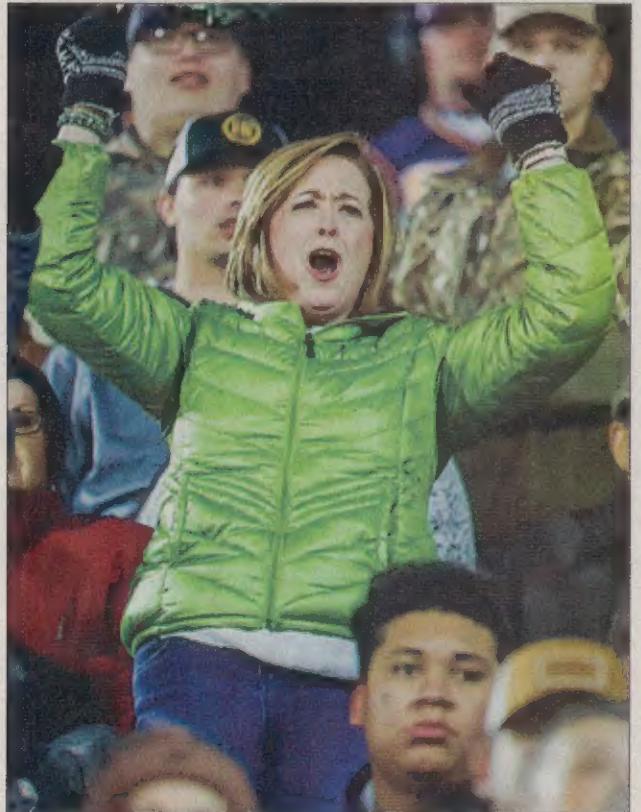
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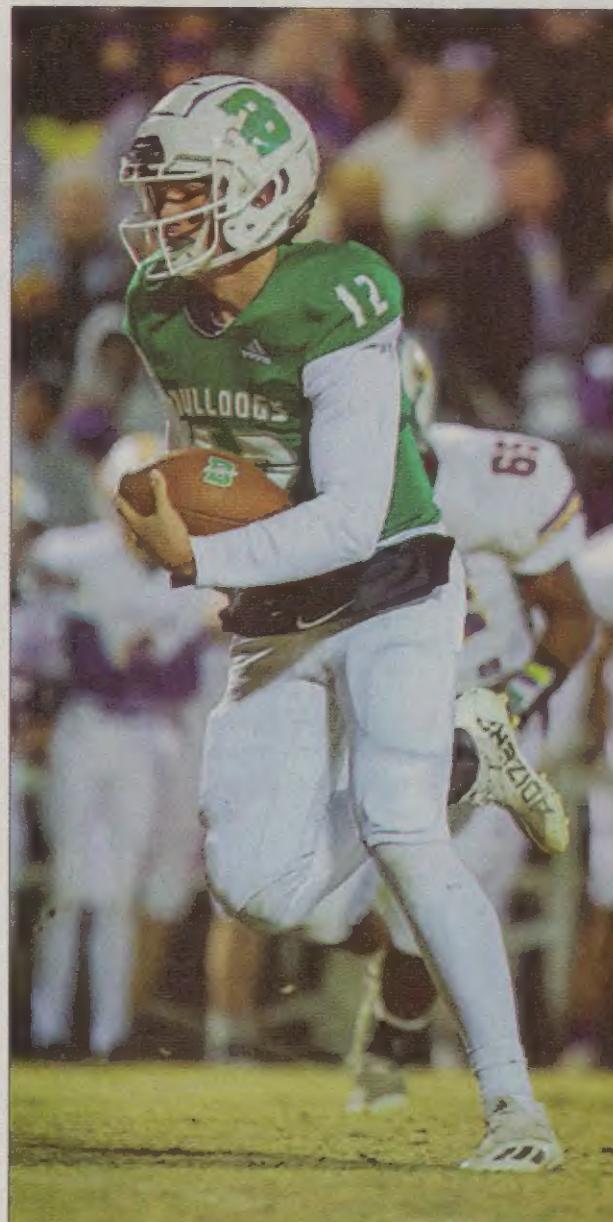
Brantley Bulldog Morell Edwards (8) pulls away from a would-be Sweet Water defender in last week's 1A semifinal action.



Brantley Bulldog Tanner Crawley (54) blocks a Sweet Water defender in last week's 1A semifinal loss.



Brantley Bulldog fan keeps the spirit in last week's 1A semifinal clash.



Brantley Bulldog Tucker Kilcrease (12) is off and running in last week's 1A semifinal contest against Sweet Water.



Brantley Bulldogs Janyies Tyson (22) and Kedrick Brown (4) combine to stop a Sweet Water runner for a short gain.



Brantley Bulldog cheerleader had plenty to cheer about as the Bulldogs rallied to grab the lead midway through the third quarter.

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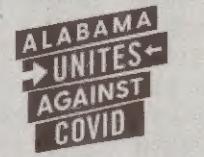
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Ethan Young and Avery Padgett (holding check with their boat captain Kyle Padgett) won the \$1,000 Contingency Award from Freedom Marine at the Alabama BASS Nation Tournament on the Alabama River. Representatives of Freedom Marine are also pictured.

Zion Chapel Bass Team remains active on the water

A N O T H E R RESURFACING PROJECT UNDERWAY IN ELBA...Earlier in the week, street resurfacing was underway on Collier Street in Elba. This resurfacing work is being done to "fix" the roads in Elba that were affected by the water system upgrades within the city. Motorists are encouraged to use extreme caution traveling around town as several different resurfacing projects are currently underway.

The Zion Chapel Bass Team's [ZCBT] first tournament Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, for this season on the Alabama BASS Nation High School Tiger Trail was not what the team members wanted in the way of fish and weight; however, one of the teams walked away with some extra cash.

This tournament was fished on the Alabama River, and boats were launched from Bridgeport Landing near Camden, Ala., in Wilcox County.

Millers Ferry is a 17,200-acre reservoir on the Alabama River impounded by the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1969. The lake's official name is William (Bill) Dannelly Reservoir. The lake is fertile, which makes fishing for largemouth and spotted bass very good.

Some of the anglers managed to catch their limit of five fish, but the ZCBT had a rough day in that respect. Team Avery Padgett/Ethan Young weighed in three fish, and team Cole McDaniel/Kevin Dowdy weighed in one fish. Team Kevin Schull/Jackson Dowdy did not fish this tournament.

Twenty-nine teams out of 152 did not weigh in a single fish. Citronelle finished in first place.

On the bright side, Team Padgett/Young was the \$1,000 Contingency Winner. This is awarded by Freedom Marine, Guntersville, Ala., to the team with the top weight fishing from a boat purchased from their marine. They award \$1,000 at all Alabama BASS Nation Tiger and Tide Trail Tournaments.

On Saturday, Nov. 20, the ZCBT fished its final tournament on the Wiregrass Angler Trail at Lake Eufaula. Team Padgett/Young snagged three fish that weighed in at 7.61 pounds; team Schull/J. Dowdy brought in one fish weighing in at 2.08 pounds.

Due to medical complications the night before, one angler was not able to fish, and his dad was to be a captain. This emergency left one angler without a captain. Never fear, the club's president Dana Haley came to the rescue. She layered herself with all the clothes she had at the lake and served as captain to enable Kevin Dowdy the chance to fish the tournament.

Other captains for this tournament were Kaleb DeVos and Mason Davis. Without the captains, the show could not happen.



Ethan Young and Avery Padgett finished in sixth place out of 112 teams in the Angler of the Year competition on the Wiregrass Angler Trail.



Team Kevin Dowdy/Cole McDaniel finished 114th out of 152 boats on the Alabama River.



Team Jackson Dowdy/Kevin Schullin caught one fish weighing in at 2.08 pounds at Lake Eufaula on the Wiregrass Angler Trail.

As the ZCBT wrapped up the Wiregrass Angler Trail for this season, out of a total of 112 teams, Avery Padgett and Ethan Young placed sixth in the Angler of the Year competition. The anglers received points for the number of tournaments they fished, total number of fish for four tournaments, and the total weight without any deductions. Hudson Choquette and Cal McInnis, Headland Bass Team, took first place honors.

A Zion Chapel Bass Team fundraiser tournament has been organized by Mike McDaniel for December 4, 2021, at Lake Jordan, State Ramp. The entry fee is \$100. Those interested may contact Mike at 334-494-0804, Larry Campbell at 334-465-9847, or Dana Haley at 334-406-0498.

On Monday, Nov. 22, the ZCBT members were the guests of Forest Lee on GOOD NEWS AND INTERVIEWS, Troy Cable, for a thirty-minute interview.

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On Monday night, Dec. 6, following their fundraiser tournament, the team will participate in the Elba Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade.

On Saturday, Dec. 11, the ZCBT members will fish their first tournament of this season on the East Alabama High School Bass Trail. They will fish Lake Jordan, Bonners Point.

Prayers are appreciated for one of the anglers who is experiencing health issues. Pray that his issues will be resolved, and he will be able to get back on the water.

As always, the team is thankful for the support of their families, community, and sponsors.



Hours of Operation for the Elba Public Library

Monday	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m. – 12 noon
Thursday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

KINSTON'S CARDWELL SIGNS WITH SHELTON STATE...Kelsi Cardwell, a senior at Kinston School, recently signed a letter of intent to continue her softball career at the next level with Shelton State Community College. Cardwell's primary position with the Kinston Lady Bulldogs has been second base, and her secondary position has been shortstop. Last season, she recorded a 92.8% fielding percentage. Cardwell also was very productive for the Lady 'Dawgs with the bat. She recorded a .490 batting average and .585 OBP in the 2021 season. She had five home runs, three triples, 19 doubles, and 13 singles. Kelsi is the daughter of Jeff and Kyra Hughes.

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